

POPULAR Computing WEEKLY

35p 4 November 1982 Vol 1 No 29

This Week

New Dragon page

Starting this week, a regular page for Dragon 32 programming skills. See page 25

Schools software

How many of the advertised programs are good enough for you? Find out in our review of ZX81 educational software on page 12.

Guy Fawkes

Pit your wits against the guards in this major new game for the ZX Spectrum. See page 8

Vic20, ZX81, BBC, Spectrum programs and games in *Open Forum*. See page 14

News Desk



Some of the few Spectrums in use in primary schools.

Spectrum shunned in education scheme

THE Sinclair Spectrum may receive only limited use in primary schools, according to information just received.

Since the Department of Industry announced its 'Micros in Primaries' grants scheme in July it has received 422 applications. Of these, 322 are

for the Acorn BBC Model B, 97 for the Research Machines 480Z and only three for the Sinclair Spectrum.

Most local education authorities have issued guidelines to their schools indicating which of the three machines in the scheme should be adopted.

US launch for BBC micro in Spring '83

ACORN plans to launch the BBC range of microcomputers in the USA in the first quarter of 1983.

The machines were shown there for the first time at the Info '82 trade exhibition, held at the Coliseum, New York, on October 11-14.

The go-ahead to exhibit at the show came after the decision to set up an American office to market the Acorn computers. "Chris Curry and John Coll went over to the show to make initial market contacts and to sort out a dealership network for the BBC machines," explained Acorn's Jane Aldrich. "US prices have not yet been finalised as they will be subject to discussions with whoever will become the distributor."

The production difficulties which have plagued the machine's progress in the UK seem finally to have been solved, allowing the American launch to be contemplated. It is only in the last two months that the micros have been freely available through Acorn dealers in Britain.

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Continued on page 28

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How to submit articles

Articles which are submitted for publication should not be more than 1,000 words long. The articles, and any accompanying programs, should be original. It is breaking the law of copyright to copy programs out of other magazines and submit them here — so please do not be tempted.

All submissions should be typed and a double space should be left between each line. Please leave wide margins.

Programs should, whenever possible, be computer printed.

We cannot guarantee to return every submitted article or program, so please keep a copy. If you want to have your program returned you must include a stamped, addressed envelope.

Accuracy

Popular Computing Weekly cannot accept any responsibility for any errors in programs we publish, although we will always try our best to make sure programs work.

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Editorial

Clive Sinclair is in grave danger of becoming The Yesterday Man. The ZX Spectrum, which was widely expected to become the market leader when it was first launched in April, is already being overtaken by the Dragon 32.

The Spectrum's eclipse is not due to any technical pre-eminence on the part of Dragon. Pound for pound the Spectrum still offers one of the best deals in the microcomputer market.

But, the Dragon 32 is available. It is possible to buy the Dragon 32 off the shelf in many high-street stores. There are no four-month waiting lists.

Quality control on the Spectrum also leaves something to be desired. While it is impossible to gather comprehensive figures, an alarming number of Spectrums are being returned — either because they did not work when they were delivered or because they crashed within hours or days of being switched on.

With the launch of the ZX81, Clive Sinclair became the undisputed leader in the micro field. That lead is now being challenged.

There is still time for Sinclair to come back. But he needs to solve his production problems and quickly.

Sinclair has already lost an immense amount of goodwill. He cannot afford to lose much more.

Next Thursday

Are you a radio ham? Log your calls with QSO — a radio directory program for the 16K ZX81 by Anthony Briggs.

Also next week, a review of some of the latest Commodore software for the Vic20. Mike Grace takes a look at Mastermind, Quizmaster and English Language Revision.

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C.P.S. GAMES

ADVENTURES

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THE WIZARD OF SHAM

If you can reach his hide-out, then he will give you the elixir of life. Travel through the jungle, the ghost town of Sham and find the secret entrance to the temple in which the wizard hides. Once in the temple you will need all your skills and determination to avoid the dangers awaiting you. You may meet the wizard in the end, but we doubt it.

THE FOURTH KIND

Can you manage to communicate with the extra-terrestrials and obtain from them the universal medicine for eternal life? This is not only an adventure but will test also your skills in trying to overcome what would seem to be impossible communication problems.

THE 7 CITIES OF CIBOLA

These famous cities, where the Spanish Jesuites found their gold, are situated somewhere in the South-American jungle. Their whereabouts have been lost for several centuries, and nobody has found them ever since. Can you survive in this exhausting climate and find at least some treasure? And if you find it, will you still be strong enough to get back with your gold? There is not only the climate: indians, poisonous animals, secret religious sects and many more.

THE DOMED CITY

You are travelling through uncharted territory and your way is blocked by a giant ant heap. By a freak mutation these ants are as big as you and there is only one way open: through the ant's lair. Some ants are friendly, others are aggressive, and your weapons are not much help: your survival depends on skill, anticipation and cunning. Will you succeed?

THE TOWER OF BRASHT

As a member of your expedition you are taken prisoner by the Kithars, a cruel tribe living near the edge of civilisation. You must choose a few companions from your team, and try to get the prisoner out. Success or failure will depend on whom you choose and how they are equipped. This D&D type adventure is difficult and will take you some time to play. It can be used as a roleplaying adventure, with as many players as there can be members of the team.

THE GHOST OF RADUN

The old, old, haunted castle of Radun, a large treasure is buried. Many have tried to find it, but none have ever returned to tell the tale. It is rumoured that the treasure is guarded by a ghost, who appears when least expected, and makes sure that the treasure hunter can no longer return. This adventure is definitely not for the weak-hearted and we strongly advise not to play it after midnight, especially not when you are alone in the house.

ADVENTURES FOR THE VERY YOUNG:

There is no longer any need for very young children to gaze wistfully at a computer they are not allowed to touch. This new series of adventures is mainly based on graphics, but follows the traditional pattern of an adventure game. There are some elementary instructions for which a bit of help from the grown ups may be needed. If you want to see some little eyes light up.

PETER RABBIT AND THE MAGIC CARROT

Peter Rabbit goes on a quest for the magic carrot. It is rumoured that any rabbit taking one bite or two cannot get an extra twenty years of life. Peter has to go through the big forest, meets nice (and not so nice) friends, deals with a dwarf, gets help from old man oak, etc.

Will he get to the cave and find the magic carrot?

PETER RABBIT AND FATHER WILLOW

Father Willow has been damaged by vandals, and is now in a bit of a state. Peter Rabbit goes in pursuit of the vandals. They know and try not only to escape but to stop Peter Rabbit from following them. Luckily the latter gets help from the other trees, who heard about the story. But will he find the vandals and have them locked up?

PETER RABBIT AND THE NAUGHTY OWL

Jimmy the Owl has been unsavourable of late. The Council of the Meadows sends Peter Rabbit on an expedition to find the Master of the Owls, in order to have Jimmy taught some manners. The Master lives very far away and its quite an adventure getting there. Will Peter Rabbit come back without having seen the Master and thus Jimmy remain a nuisance?

It now transpires that the Peter Rabbit Adventures can be dangerously addictive to grown ups!

FRUSTRATION

Frustration is more a puzzle than an adventure. It looks like a program full of bugs and nothing seems to work. It will be difficult to get to the end, but if you do (and don't go mad with frustration!) then there is a reward. The first ten correct answers received by us will be allowed to choose three of our games. FREE!

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Ardenne, 1944. The famous 'von Rundstedt' offensive.

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A simulation of this well known sea battle.

CONVOY

You are the commander of a convoy under attack from submarines. Instant decisions are required and if you hesitate too long the damage might be worse. Try and locate the enemy and destroy him. Not easy... Again graphics, but combined with verbal information.

All these games are available for ATARI 16K and SPECTRUM 16K. Some of the games will load different programs successively and are thus much larger than 16K.

All C.P.S. Games, except those for children, are priced at £9.50. The Peter Rabbit and Tummy Digs games are now £4.50.

C.P.S. 14 Britton St., London EC1M 5NU

We are in the process of moving. Mail will still be received at the above address and telephone messages taken. Our new address and telephone number will be announced in the next issue.



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DECEMBER 1982

LEAs favour Acorns and Research Machines

THERE are several reasons why the Sinclair Spectrum is not being selected for the Department of Industry's education scheme.

The 'Micros in Primaries' programme is an extension of the earlier secondary schools' scheme — in which a Sinclair machine was not included.

LEAs taking part in the earlier scheme will have standardised their secondary schools on either the Research Machines or Acorn BBC computers — and most of these have opted for the same machine in their primaries.

The Inner London Education Authority has selected the RM480Z under both grants offers. Derek Esterson of its computer department said: "We feel that standardisation is absolutely essential to enable us to provide any kind of sensible support for the schools."

Both Hampshire and Manchester LEAs have chosen the BBC machine for primaries and secondaries. A spokeswoman for Manchester LEA commented: "The need for standardisation is obvious if you look at software. What we buy must be compatible with as many machines as possible."

Whilst the ZX Spectrum at £175 appears to have a substantial price advantage over its nearest rival — the BBC at £399 — this is not entirely relevant in the Dol scheme. By the time you add on the price of a colour monitor to the package the proportional saving is reduced. The Spectrum then becomes £472 compared with the £650 of the BBC. Nigel Searle — Sinclair's Computer Division head — admits that this 'narrowing of the gap' is one of the reasons for their recent £15m schools discount offer. Because the Dol offer is applicable to only one machine per school, the price advantage offered by the Spectrum becomes a less important consideration.

The much publicised production and delivery problems have not helped.

Derek Esterson reckons that "the Spectrum is just not up to the battering it will get in schools."

East Sussex Authority which made the decision to standardise on Commodore Pets as long ago as 1978 has still to decide on the machine for its primary schools. Gordon Holmes, its equipment buyer, has not been able to evaluate either the Sinclair or Research Machines options. Griffin and George Ltd, appointed to distribute the Sinclair machines in schools, has no Spectrums to demonstrate.

Hampshire is firmly recommending the use of the BBC machine to its schools. In a letter from Mr Bothwell of its County Education office it advises against adoption of the Sinclair Spectrum: "It is disappointing that several computer specialists who have recently evaluated the machine are less than enthusiastic about its performance and handling properties." The document is critical of the multi-function keyboard, picture quality, screen mapping system, and "idiosyncratic" version of Basic. The letter continues: "It is therefore with considerable reluctance that the decision has been taken not to place orders with the Dol for this machine."

"Schools are strongly urged to consider cancelling unfulfilled orders for the Sinclair Spectrum which may have been placed in anticipation of a different decision."

Unleashing of the Lynx

CAMPUTERS will launch its Lynx microcomputer in the second week of November. It will include 48K Ram and will cost £225 including VAT.

Three other versions of the Lynx, with 96K, 128K and 192K Ram, should follow in the next few months. The 96K machine will cost £295.

Tron in Town

TRON, the video-game movie from Disney, opened in the UK on October 22 at the Odeon Cinema, Leicester Square. It will go on general release from December 27. The film stars Jeff Bridges, David Warner and Cindy Morgan, and is directed by Stephen Lisberger.



Tron warrior in control: © MCMLXXXII Walt Disney Productions.

Three new micros from Sanyo

SANYO will launch three new microcomputers in the UK in January 1983.

Called the PHC-10, PHC-20 and PHC-25, they are aimed at the home user and range in price from £60 to £150.

With 16K Ram, high resolution graphics, three voices and nine colours the Z80A-based PHC-25 is the most advanced. It will be priced at £150. It runs a version of Microsoft Basic similar to that of the Dragon. There are four graphics modes: text only, monochrome; 64 x 64, nine colours; 192 x 128, nine colours; and 256 x 192, three colours. Cursor keys are separate and four user-definable keys are provided. The PHC-25 is fitted with a Centronics port, cassette output and both tv and monitor outputs.

The PHC-20, to cost around £100, has 4K Ram and is monochrome only. The PHC-10, planned for £60, is better powered, has 4K Ram, 16-character LCD display. It has no tv output and runs in integer-only Basic.

Oric: set back but enhanced

LAUNCH of the Oric 1 16K and 48K microcomputers has been put back one month. Production problems have meant that the first 1,000 machines are now planned for release in mid-December.

The 48K version, still at £169, will now be bi-lingual. Forth will be offered on the machine — provided as a free cassette with every unit.

Also planned are an Extended Basic — providing a structured programming capability — scheduled for release at under £40 early in the New Year, and a version of Pascal.



An Observer spokesman confirmed that the first 500 orders would be dispatched within 28 days. "We have had a fantastic response to the offer, but we may run into delivery difficulties after the first 500," she said.

Sinclair Research is confident that the delivery backlog of normal mail-orders will be cleared by mid-November, and has begun to readvertise the product.

ZX81 Workstation...



... is a stylish and ergonomic plinth for the ZX81. It raises and tilts the TV to avoid eyestrain, holds the 16KRAM in place and hides the wiring and power supply. This very professional unit costs £15, a built-in power switch is £3, plus postage at £1.50, inc. VAT. Peter Furlong Products, Unit 5, South Coast Road, Industrial Estate, Peacehaven, Sussex BN9 8NA. Telephone 07914 81637 for C.O.D. and Credit Card sales.



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Adventure 1: Based on the original game by Crowther, this game was the start of the Adventure craze. Reviewed Sinclair User, Issue 2. Features Save game routine as the game can literally take months to complete.
16K ZX81 £8.95 - 48K Spectrum £9.95

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Letters

write to Letters, Popular Computing Weekly, Hobhouse Court, 19 Whitcomb Street, London WC2

An inspired exhortation

I have been prompted to write to you after having read a letter from Stephen Kelly, *Popular Computing Weekly*, September 2. As he quite correctly states, the ScreenS function returns a null string for the graphic characters and the user defined set, although I would not go so far as to say that this function/symbols are pointless in games.

However, there is a way of using user defined characters and having the ScreenS function return the code. This involves changing the character set pointer to an address in Ram. The following routine will change Ram top, copy the character set to Ram and then alter the pointer.

```
1 LET B = 15616
2 CLEAR 31831
3 FOR A = 31832 TO 32599
4 POKE A, PEEK B
5 LET B = B + 1
6 NEXT A
7 POKE 23606,88
8 POKE 23607,123
9 STOP
```

This having been done, it will now give you an extra 96 user defined characters, starting from code 32 (space) to code 127 (copyright symbol) plus the normal 21 user defined graphics. There are now a total of 117 characters that can be redefined.

It is important to note, however, that you cannot define the characters by *Poke* *Chr* "A" etc. The start address of a given character has to be worked out beforehand. This is done by: address + (character Code * 8). The resulting address followed by the next 7 have to be *Poked* in the normal way. To save the character set on tape, just enter Save "name" Code 31832,768.

D Hayward
4 Lane End
Whelford
Nr Fairford
Gloucester GL7 4HF

Infinite Improbability

Have you noticed that although Sinclair Research is based in Cambridge, orders have to be sent to Camberley for a computer assembled in Dundee?

The computer then arrives

from Aldershot, made from components bought from Japan, Portugal, Ireland, America and France. Has the infinite improbability of receiving a ZX Spectrum caused Sinclair Research to be everywhere in the universe at the same time?

Bill Longley
388 Ipswich Road
Colchester
Essex

My Guardian Angel lives

The great thing about the ZX Spectrum is that it doesn't suffer from the dreaded Ram-pack wobble of its predecessor, does it? I mean, programs won't just vanish in front of your very eyes, will they?

So there I was, two hours into typing my first program into my shiny new Spectrum (which sounds as though a wasp's nest has inadvertently been trapped inside it) when I noticed strange blue blobs spattering themselves rapidly over the screen.

'Do something safe' I thought; but before I could do anything — aaarrgh!! It 'newed'. All by itself. Sinclair's done it again!!

Ah well — I'll send it back and with a bit of luck I won't see the thing again this year.

P Gleave
39 Clanson Ave
Northolt
Middx

A star over Bethlehem

I regularly read your brilliant magazine. I am a proud owner of a 3.5K Vic20 and the first headline in *Popular Computing Weekly*, October 7, that caught my eye was Vic20 adventure games tested.

Eagerly I flicked to page 12 as I've never bought an adventure. The review was well written and I was prepared to go out and buy the first adventure I could find, but not if they were too expensive for me.

How much is a cartridge? By Christmas will the prices be lowered because of rival competition from companies such as Sinclair? Do they need memory expansion, and which one would you recommend for the beginner? Meanwhile,

keep up the high standards in your magazine.

Paul Grove (13)
2a Grove Wood Hill
Coulsdon
Surrey

Each of the adventure games costs a lot at £24.95 and is available from Commodore, Commodore dealers or through the Vicsoft mail-order magazine. Commodore claims that there is little chance of the price coming down to a more reasonable level before Christmas.

Breaking the Möbius strip

In Volume 1 No 23 the Cover Story program Tunnel does not run properly. The m/c breaks into the variables area. Two changes to the program will stop this.

```
1) POKE 16572, 79
2) Line 115 should read:
   LET A = A + (A<0) - (>A-16 AND W
   = 2) - (>A-18 AND W = 1)
```

I hope that this will be of some help.

M Snowdon
109 Kimberley Road
Solihull
West Midlands

Can I claim top score?

After programming Scramble into my Vic20 computer I was interested to read that the highest score was 820. Now after a week of practice at the game I have achieved a score of 900. Has anyone done any better?

Stewart Douglas
11 George Street
Sherburn
Durham

Give us the explanation

I typed in the excellent Spectrum Disassembler from the September 23 issue of your magazine. It works very well except when it comes across certain ZX80 instructions.

As you can see from the copy I made of the screen it does not correctly disassemble address 69. It does this whenever it encounters a code value of 253 or 221. These codes have something to do with the prefixing of instructions using

the IY and YX registers.

I have checked my listing and can find nothing wrong with it. Would it be possible for you to perhaps print something in your magazine confirming (or not) that your listing is correct, so that I will then know where the problem lies.

```
46 RST 56
47 RST 56
48 PUSH BC
49 LD HL, (23649)
52 PUSH HL
53 JP 5790
56 PUSH AF
57 PUSH HL
58 LD HL, (23672)
61 INC HL
62 LD (23672), HL
65 LD A, H
66 OR L
67 JR NZ, 72
69 ? 253 CLEAR
   52 4
71 LD B, B 64 @
72 PUSH BC 197 OR
73 PUSH DE
```

Keith Robertson
Giffach
4 Digney Close
Holyhead
Anglesey
Gwynedd
LL65 2PW

We think the listing was correct. Does anyone else have an explanation?

And little bugs have littler bugs

The following bug is present in all ZX81s. The bug is that the Spectrum and the ZX81 both think that 1/2 is unequal to .5 (.5 is however equal to 1/2).

The fault (in the '81) is that the binary value of .5 is one bit short, so it's not surprising that a comparison with 1/2 (which it calculates correctly) will fail.

The following line of Basic will illustrate the fault on both machines.

```
IF 1/2 < .5 THEN PRINT "OOPS"
```

G M Margetson
3 Bransdale Close
Baildon
Shipley
W. Yorks
BD17 5DQ

If you have an opinion you want to express, or have spotted an error that needs correcting, write to: Letters, Popular Computing Weekly, Hobhouse Court, 19 Whitcomb Street, London WC2.

COVER STORY

Guy Fawkes

A new game for 16K Spectrum
by Matthew Bramble

The 5th of November is Guy Fawkes night in Britain each year, an occasion for celebration with fireworks, children begging "a penny for the guy" and the burning of effigies of Guy Fawkes.

Guy Fawkes was an early seventeenth century English soldier, exiled in the Spanish army. He was brought back to Britain by the organisers of the Gunpowder plot, for their attempt to blow up the Houses of Parliament, and King James I, on November 5, 1605.

The conspirators were all Roman Catholics and the assassination attempt was directed as a protest against the increasing repression of Catholics under James I.

One of the conspirators leaked the details of the plot. The barrels of gunpowder, hidden in the cellars under the Houses of Parliament were discovered on November 4. Guy Fawkes was tortured and then executed near Parliament in 1606.

In this program, by Matthew Bramble, for the 16K Spectrum, you can re-play the last days of the conspiracy. The object of the game is to travel across a maze and

collect a barrel of gunpowder. It is a race against time and the guard chasing you.

Once you have collected the gunpowder you have to carry it back across the maze, deposit the gunpowder inside the Houses of Parliament and then race back through the maze to your safe house before you run out of time, are caught by the guard, or Parliament blows up.

Your score, displayed as the time you have left, is shown throughout the game. Full instructions on which keys to use to work your way through the maze are given in the program.



MEET A HEBOT

AT

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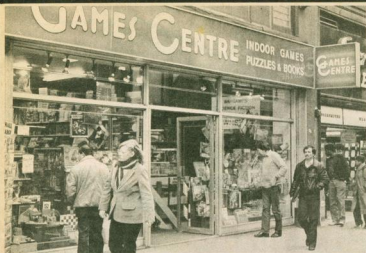
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Play up, play up and play the game

David Kelly talks to Graeme Levin of the Games Centre

Through the small door at the back of the Games Centre shop in London's Oxford Street and up four floors. Past piles of games of every conceivable size and type crowding out into heaps on the landings. And up to the small, paper festooned office on the top floor, from where Graeme Levin runs his chain of games shops.

He is a likeable, slightly nervous individual. Any conversation with him is certain to be punctuated by a succession of enforced halts while he sorts out some problem or other on his constantly ringing phone.

At the moment he is preoccupied with the final arrangements for the opening of his seventh shop — in Birmingham.

Graeme first came to this country from South Africa eleven years ago. He began what he describes as a 'publishing venture' out of which was born the idea of a shop that would specialise in selling games. He has been an avid games player and inventor for many years — he co-invented the game Speculate. More recently he has been instrumental in bringing some games — such as *Survive* and *Conspiracy* — on to the market.

The first Games Centre opened in 1974 at a little shop in Hanway Street, tucked away behind Oxford Street and Tottenham Court Road. Four years later a second shop was added in Charing Cross Road and the Hanway Street business was moved to new prestige premises in Oxford Street.

In the last twelve months four more shops have opened with two more, including the Birmingham store, to open shortly. Graeme says "We spent some time getting the formula for the shops right. Now is the right time to expand because we are

seeing a greatly increased demand for our goods — not just for our video games and computers, but for our whole range of games, puzzles, books and toys.

"We now stock over 15,000 lines and included in those is what is certainly the world's largest selection of games. The highest turn-over of any group of products is shown by the video games and computers. Within this group the Atari software cartridges sell best.

"We can offer what none of the normal high-street retail chains can — expert advice. If I was going to spend two or three hundred pounds on a machine I'd want to be given proper help to choose the right system for me. The Games Centre may

not be the cheapest place to buy a microcomputer but it prides itself on being able to help customers to make that right choice. And it continues to offer good after sales advice and assistance."

At the moment the Games Centres sell the Atari range of products, the ZX81, Mattel Intelevison and the Dragon-32. Future plans include the Sinclair Spectrum as soon as it goes retail — possibly by January — and the Commodore 64 — hopefully in November.

"By this time next year we intend to have the largest range of software available in a shop for these machines" says Graeme. "It is a big ambition — we are still learning — but we are going to try very hard to achieve it.

"Software is very important. What we found when we started to sell the Atari system was that hardware sales were slow until we established a good spread of software. After that both the software and hardware sales took off.

"So when we took on the ZX81 we bought small quantities of every cassette we could find to try out. From that we were quickly able to build up a comprehensive collection of the good ZX81 software. The same sort of approach will be adopted for both the ZX, Spectrum and the Commodore 64.

"There are now so many microcomputers either here or about to be here that it is not easy to decide which will sell and which will not. The future of home computers is intimately connected with those of games and leisure, but I would make a distinction between games and hobbyist computers.

"The Mattel Intelevison and Atari are games machines first and foremost. The Dragon-32 and Commodore-64 are primarily hobbyist machines — they are games machines second. It was a difficult decision for us to stock these two latter, but we feel sure that they will do well. They are both such interesting machines that the games software is bound to be developed for them."



Reviews

Chalking up the A grades

Tony Bridge looks at the latest educational software for the ZX81.

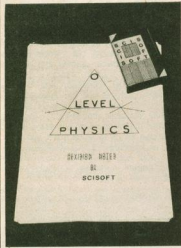
THE SCENE: a crowded first-grade classroom. Each pupil has a microcomputer on the desk in front of him, with a monitor.

COMPUTER: "Good morning, children"
PUPILS (in chorus): "Good morning, ZX95"

COMPUTER: "After the register, we will begin the day with arithmetic"

PUPILS (in chorus): "Groaaan . . ."

Fanciful? Well, yes, but one pole of opinion holds that computers will eventually supplant, if not teachers, at least all textbooks



and pen and paper in the classroom.

The opposite pole, of course, believes that computers should be kept out of the classroom completely, and taught as a subject like any other on the curriculum.

The truth no doubt lies somewhere between the two. After all, radio, tv, and the VCR have all been assimilated painlessly into the classroom. But it is a fact that there are a great number of misconceptions about the subject.

Software for education is at the sharp end of what must be a well-judged exercise in easing the fears of many parents and teachers.

The Sinclair ZX81 is not the ideal computer for school use. It is cheap, yes, but the keyboard, together with the easily-

jogged Ram pack and mains lead, and the slow access time are all major drawbacks to acceptance. However, many schools already have the computer, and there is a multitude of software available for educational purposes.

Let's start this review with Sinclair's own contribution to the field. ICL has produced a series called *Fun-to-Learn* for Sinclair Research. The series includes titles such as Music, History, Geography and Inventions. The whole package was reviewed in these columns in issue No 10.

At £6.95, the tapes are over-priced, and in their present format really only of use as General Knowledge quizzes on long winter evenings with the family. Many of the questions contained within the programs are interesting, but, unfortunately, there is no supporting documentation. Sinclair must be serious about its involvement in education, and a modest investment in well-planned textbooks to go with each tape must be high on its list of future releases.

Of the two programs received from Rose Cassettes, one is for the under-eights, and the other for GCE O-level students. *Arithmetic* for the under-eights tests the pupil in addition, subtraction, division and multiplication. Extra-large characters are used in the sums which would be of great use in the classroom.

As a correct answer is input, a feature is added to the face on a balloon. When the face is complete, the balloon rises into the sky. A very good program, this, which makes a sometimes unpopular subject more interesting and amusing to the younger pupil.

The *French* tape is aimed at 13-16-year-old students of the language. Side one tests on grammar, with side two setting questions on vocabulary. The pupil is given a word or phrase in either French or English, and asked to translate. A good, solid program.

Rose Cassettes have released a num-

ber of educational programs, and if they are all of such a high standard as the two represented here, they can be safely recommended. A lack of supporting literature again, however, reduces Rose Cassettes' potential.

Philip and Joy Lawton, as AZEP (Computer Training Consultants), have released a number of tapes at a very reasonable £1.95 per topic. The topics, for A-level students and undergraduates, include such simulations as *Motor Bike* — acceleration, speed, distance, *Resistor* — inductor circuit, transients and 10 other equally exotic titles. Study booklets for each topic are a further £1.95, and VHS videocassettes are also available for just £19.95.



THIS IS WHAT YOU ARE HEARING FOR

The tape submitted by AZEP was *Electronic Chalk and Talk*, an awkwardly-named demonstration of the ZX81's use in CAL (Computer-Assisted Learning). The program is impressive in use, but the documentation supplied is very confused, and completely unenlightening. However, purchasers of the other tapes may rest assured that the booklets are very well-written and useful.

Tasman Software, of Leeds, has a couple of educational programs in its small catalogue (in fact, they represent two-thirds of Tasman's output). *Tasimeq* helps acquaint students with simultaneous equations. Good but restrained use of graphics (no races or games), and good, progressive teaching make this an ex-

remely useful program. If the correct answer is given, a harder problem is set, while an incorrect answer prompts another problem of equal difficulty. Thus the student is helped along at the correct pace for his ability. The examples are all worked through step-by-step, and makes learning very much easier.

Tas-trig, as you may deduce from the title, teaches basic trigonometry using sines, cosines and tangents. A calculator is necessary whilst using the program, but again, the good use of graphics, and a scoring system, make the tape very useful.

Let us hope that Tasman release more educational software in the future — they are very good at it.

Finally, let us look at software from Sci-Soft of Nottinghamshire. This company has an extensive catalogue of exclusively educational programs. Titles include Maths 'O' Level, Biology, Physics, and Chemistry 'O' Levels, and also programs for younger students, including *Jungle Maths* and *Magic Spell*.

The tapes for the younger pupil rely, naturally, rather heavily on graphics, but are none the worse for that. *KJ*, in this column in *PCW* No 7, was not taken generally with *Jungle Maths*, finding the graphics good, but the coding wanting. *Magic Spell*, however, works rather well. The teacher types in ten words, and speaks the same words on to tape. The pupil then listens to the tape and attempts to spell the word he or she is hearing.

Scores are given to each pupil (more than one may take part in each round) and then the words misspelt are conjured out of a shiny top-hat on to a Magic Board. The younger children loved this program. The same result could probably be obtained by using ordinary pencil and paper, but the program is great fun, and could be given a place in a busy classroom.

The *Teachers Markbook* is an electronic

HELLO THERE DAVID

SO YOU THINK THIS WILL PASS YOUR "O" LEVEL FOR YOU?

WELL EVERY, BUT IT WONT WHAT IT WILL DO IS SHOW YOU WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP YOURSELF

REMEMBER

THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON IS THAT THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR HARD WORK

(REMEMBER C TO COPY OTHERWISE PRESS ANY KEY)

could probably do just as well with pencil and paper.

The main bulk of Sci-Soft's release, however, is aimed at older students about to take their GCE 'O' Levels in one of several subjects. The *Revision* tapes are all pretty similar, containing seven or eight long programs. The first one in each case is *Revision*, which guides the student through the last few weeks leading up to the exam.

Although the program admits it won't pass the exam for you, it does give you sound advice. This advice sometimes gets a little whimsical, as for instance, "try praying"! The same advice could be given in the accompanying book, but is no less sound coming from the TV screen.

The following programs on the tapes concentrate on setting specific questions on the subject in hand. Although the questions contained in the program are excellent, alternative questions may be inserted. Very good graphics are used,



The most outstanding feature of these excellent packages, however, is the supporting literature, which consists, in each case, of some 50 pages of densely-packed revision material such as diagrams, formulae and so on. This literature really lifts this series of software head-and-shoulders above the rest and should serve as an example to other aspiring educationalists.

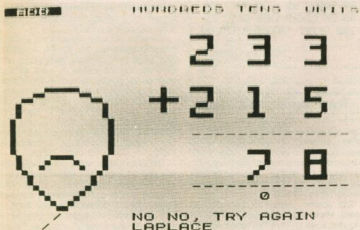
Summary

Most of these programs would work rather better in the home than the classroom. Rose Cassettes' *Arithmetic for the Under-Eights*, with its chunky graphics, might be an asset in the busy classroom, but tapes like the ICL collection, or Sci-Soft's *Revision* packages are obviously of more use in the home.

Few of the programs auto-ran, and in none of them was the *Break* key disabled, making them difficult to use in unsupervised conditions. More seriously, however, most of the packages lacked any kind of supporting literature. At the risk of labouring this point, we must stress that well-written textbooks, such as Sci-Soft's, are a necessity.

After all, a child's education is a sensitive matter, and should be approached responsibly. To this end, we were glad to see that most of the programs were written by, or with the help of, qualified teachers.

So, despite many faults, all the programs reviewed, in one way or another, accomplished their professed aim: to educate.



aid for the busy teacher. Pupils' marks are input, and rank-ordered for future examination. As Sci-Soft says, this program would prove extremely useful at a parent's evening, as a novel way of showing parents how their child is progressing. For day-to-day use, however, the teacher

and scores are also given. Once the student has gained 10 points (certainly not easy), the program declares that he or she will "probably pass the exam." This format is adhered to throughout the *Chemistry* and *Physics* packages, and we imagine, the others.

Open Forum

Open Forum is for you to publish your programs and ideas.

It is important that your programs are bug free before you send them in. We cannot test all of them.

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How to contribute

Each week the editor goes through all the programs that you send to Open Forum in order to find the Program of the Week.

The author of that program will qualify for DOUBLE the usual fee we pay for published programs.
(The usual fee is £5.)

Presentation hints

Programs which are most likely to be considered for the Program of the Week will be computer printed and accompanied by a cassette.

The program will be well documented, the documentation being typed with a double spacing between each line.

The documentation should start with a general description of the program and then give some detail of how the program has been constructed and of its special features.

Listings taken from a ZX Printer should be cut into convenient lengths and carefully stuck down on to white paper, avoiding any creasing.

Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Memory Game

on ZX81

Here is a program that takes only a couple of minutes to type in yet can supply hours of frustratingly enjoyable moments. It is an ideal game for those who do not yet know their way round the ZX81 as no graphics are used.

A letter appears in the top left-hand corner and is displayed for about two seconds then the screen goes blank. You now have to type in the letter you saw. Note there is no time limit. If you get it right another letter will be added to the first, and again you type in the letters and so on. If you should get any of the letters wrong the number of letters you reached is displayed.

If at the end you wish to see the correct answer, then add this line:

```
110 PRINT "IT WAS: A$"
```

If you think the time allowed is too long

or short then you can change line 60 to a suitable number. If you still find it too easy, try changing line 20 to:

```
20 LET B=INT(RND*36)+28
```

then you get numbers as well!

If you wish to keep the highest score on the game then add the following:

```
5 INPUT H
95 IF LEN A$ > H THEN LET H = LEN A$
105 PRINT "HIGHEST SCORE =" H
110 INPUT Z$
120 CLS
125 GOTO 10
```

When first run enter 0 as highest score. Enter highest score all other times. Highest score held by me is 14 using letters only.

```
10 LET A$=""
20 LET B=INT(RND*26)+38
30 LET B$=CHR$(B)
40 LET A$=A$+B$
50 PRINT A$
60 PAUSE 100
70 CLS
80 INPUT C$
90 IF C$=A$ THEN GOTO 20
100 PRINT "SCORE=";LEN A$
```

Memory Game
by Ian McGrath

Ramtop/Atomic Nos

on ZX81

This program is for a 16K ZX81 with a printer attached. It has two interesting features, the first being that it uses some custom designed characters on the printer, by means of a modified Copy routine from the Rom, and an alternative character set placed above Ramtop.

The second feature is that although space above Ramtop is required by the program it will reserve this space for itself by resetting Ramtop without clearing Ram. The routine that does this is contained in Line 8095. It does not use Usr 1040 because it doesn't work.

The routine will reset Ramtop and reconfigure Basic to the address Poked into the bytes at 16507 and 16508. Since this involves moving the Z80 machine stack

and Basic's Return stack for Gosubs, anything that might alter these stacks during the move would cause a crash, and so *Ints* and *Nmis* must be prevented by running the routine in Fast mode.

The program itself computes and draws an electronic configuration diagram of an atom on being given an Atomic Number between 1 and 112. Such a diagram shows the levels, sub-levels, and orbitals in which the electrons are arranged in an atom.

The diagram will appear on the printer as a series of boxes arranged in rows with a label for each row. The first number in the label is the level number, the letter is the type of orbital arrangement, followed by the number of electrons in that sub-level. The higher the level the more room there is for orbitals and therefore the more sub-shells in the level.

Each sub-shell has a particular arrangement of orbitals (S, P, D, F) containing 1, 3, 5 and 7 orbitals respectively, and each orbital can hold up to two electrons. Since electrons have spin, and this spin is important, the electrons are represented in the diagram as up-arrows and down-arrows in a convention found in most textbooks on the subject.

Since Sinclair characters do not support the characters needed for the program, and since only software techniques are portable, the ZX Printer is used as the main output device, as custom characters can be produced on it using only programming techniques. This works by duplicating the Rom Copy routine in Ram and altering one byte to make it use the address 32256 as the base address for the character-generator instead of the normal 7680.

The Rom C-Gen. is copied above Ramtop and 32 bytes are altered, redrawing four Graphics characters (1 to 4). The diagram is drawn on the screen first and then Copied to the printer by Line 8001.

If you haven't a printer then alter S\$ to "space-inverse- less-than/inverse-greater-than"; T\$ to "space-inverse- less-than/inverse space"; I\$ to "space/inverse space/inverse space". You won't need Line 305:8000 to 8130.

Format 1 is the diagram, format 2 is simply a list of the labels.

The first step in entering the program is to enter program one to compile the

machine code *Rems* and the character-generator. On *Running*, the program will ask you to enter the contents of table one after it has finished doing the *Copy* routine, and when this is done it will run the *Ramtop* routine to reset *Ramtop* and then transfer the *Ram* character-generator to the newly protected area.

It will then ask you to enter table two to alter some of the characters. That done it will stop, requesting you to delete the program except for the *Rems*, and to alter the line numbers as indicated. Then enter the main program.

When all is done the first thing is to *Goto* 8040. This will read the char-generator into *Q()* to be Saved with the program, so that on being *Loaded* the program will *Run* automatically resetting *Ramtop* and building the char-generator from *Q()*.

Program notes:

Lines 20-40 N () is the level number, L () is the sub-shell type.

50-56 E () is the full electron number, S\$ is a full orbital, T\$ is a half empty orbital, and I\$ is an empty orbital. The graphic characters are altered for the printer, and no Sinclair characters will give a sensible screen display anyway.

305 Gosub 8000 is the routine that *Copies* the screen to the printer.

470-500 Subtract a full sub-shells-worth of electrons from the Atomic number, *Bi* is the remainder *R* is zero or less. As long as *R* is positive a full row of orbitals containing two electrons each, may be printed. *C* is the number of electrons, and if *R* is less than zero not all the orbitals will be full, and *C* is reduced accordingly.

605 Prints the sub-shell label.
610 B is the number of orbitals (boxes) in the current sub-shell. T is the number of full orbitals if one or more, if T = B then all the orbitals are full. If T is negative, some orbitals must be empty.

650 B - Abs T gives the number of half-empty orbitals.

675 T now gives the number of empty orbitals.
700-799 Formats the label list and prints it.
8040-8080 Store the character generator (above *Ramtop*) in *Q()* to Save it on tape with the program.

8091-8092 16507 and 16508 are where the *Ramtop* routine expects to find the new value for *Ramtop*.

8094 Adds five to the value of *Nexlin* system variable to give the start of the machine code routine in the next line of Basic. (*Ramtop* routine).

8100 Transfer the character generator to above *Ramtop*.

MAIN PROGRAM

```

1 REM 1.0,2.2,3.0,2.2,2.0,6.3,3.5,2
3 P,6,4,3,0,3,0,10,4,10,4,10,5,0,2
4,0,18,5,0,2,0,3,0,4,0,14,0,5,0,2
5,6,0,5,7,0,2,0,6,0,14,0,5,0,2
15 REM LINE 10 TO 15 IS EQUIVALENT
0 "DATA" STATEMENT
20 DTH 1200
30 DTH 18120
40 DTH 18120
50 LET S$=""
60 LET T$=""
70 LET I$=""
80 GOTO 150
90 FOR U=1 TO 15
75 REM GOSUB 8000 IS EQUIVALENT
TO READ AND READS FROM LINE
105 REM "DATA" STATEMENT
80 GOSUB 8000
90 LET N(U)=VAL DS
100 GOSUB 8000
110 LET L(U)=CHR$(CODE DS)
120 GOSUB 8000
130 LET E(U)=VAL DS
140 NEXT U
145 GOTO 300
150 S$=""
155 PRINT "THIS PROGRAM WILL
CALCULATE "THE NUMBER OF ELECTR
ONS IN EACH
160 PRINT "ENERGY LEVEL OF AN A
TOR, GIVEN"

```

```

100 PRINT "THE ATOMIC NUMBER."
101 PRINT "THE PROGRAM OBEYS
"HUNDT'S RULE" IN FILLING O
RBITALS I.E. IT PUTS ONE ELECTR
ON IN EACH ORBITAL UNTIL LACK
OF ORBITALS CAUSES EL
ECTRONS TO
200 PRINT "THE RESULT CAN BE DI
PLAYED IN"
210 PRINT "ONE OF TWO FORMATS:"
220 PRINT " 1. ENERGY LEVEL DI
AGRAM"
230 PRINT " 2. ELECTRONIC CONF
IGURATION"
240 PRINT "THE PRINTER SHOWS TH
E BETTER OUTPUT"
270 GOTO 70
300 GOSUB 8000
310 PRINT "ENTER AN ATOMIC NUMB
ER (1-112)"
320 INPUT A
330 IF A<1 OR A>112 THEN GOTO 3
60
340 SCROLL
350 PRINT "FORMAT ? (1 OR 2)";
360 INPUT F
370 IF F=1 OR F=2 THEN GOTO 340
380 LET F=INT F
390 LET A=1
400 LET A=2
410 LET A=3
420 LET A=4
430 LET A=5
440 LET A=6
450 LET A=7
460 LET A=8
470 LET A=9
480 LET A=10
490 LET A=11
500 LET A=12
510 GOSUB P=100+500
520 LET U=1
530 G=0 THEN GOTO 570
540 PRINT AT 21,0;
550 GOTO 300
560 IF C=0 THEN RETURN
570 IF C=0 THEN RETURN
580 IF C=0 THEN RETURN
590 IF C=0 THEN RETURN
600 IF C=0 THEN RETURN
610 LET B=U/2
620 LET B=U/2
630 LET B=U/2
640 LET B=U/2
650 LET B=U/2
660 LET B=U/2
670 LET B=U/2
680 LET B=U/2
690 LET B=U/2
700 LET B=U/2
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890 LET B=U/2
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990 LET B=U/2
1000 LET B=U/2
1010 LET B=U/2
1020 LET B=U/2
1030 LET B=U/2
1040 LET B=U/2
1050 LET B=U/2
1060 LET B=U/2
1070 LET B=U/2
1080 LET B=U/2
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9410 LET B=U/2
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9680 LET B=U/2
9690 LET B=U/2
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9760 LET B=U/2
9770 LET B=U/2
9780 LET B=U/2
9790 LET B=U/2
9800 LET B=U/2
9810 LET B
```

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ZX

16K

BBC

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A/B

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Open Forum

Kaleidoscope

on ZX81

This is a program for the ZX81 with at least 2K of Ram. The functional part of the program is written in machine code and gives a very effective kaleidoscope display. Each time the program is run a different display will be produced, and you can exit from the machine code using the break key.

Program notes:

Line 1 is used as a 'safe' place to store the machine code.

Lines 19-195 set up the code in the string AS.

Lines 110-150 Poke the code into the Ram statement.

Lines 170-220 Print the Screen (24 x 24 characters).

Line 170 allows a screen display of 32 x 24 characters to be used.

Lines 230-240 produce a delay.

Line 260 calls the machine code routine.

At lines 180 and 200 the number after the word **Graphic** refers to the key on which the graphic may be found, i.e., line 200 contains the graphics on key eight followed by 23 inverse spaces.

The machine code incorporates a random number generator and uses the Unplot routine held in the 8K Ram.

```

1 REM *****
2 REM BY PHILIP EDWARDS
3 REM OF ALTRINCHAM
4 PRINT"(CLR)"
5 POKE36879,123
10 PRINT"(RVS ON) THIS IS ALARM CLOCK (RVS OFF)"
20 PRINT"(LCD) (LCR) PLEASE WAIT"
21 PRINT"(7CD) (7CR) "
22 PRINT"(7CR) 12 "
23 PRINT"(7CR) 1 "
24 PRINT"(7CR) 9 \ 3"
25 PRINT"(7CR) 6 "
26 PRINT"(7CR) 1 "
27 POKE56,24:POKE55,0:CS=6144
30 FORI=CSTO7678STEP2:Z=PEEK(32768+(I-CS)/2)
35 POKEI,Z:POKEI+1,Z:NEXT
40 POKE36879,25:POKE36867,(PEEK(36867))OR23
45 POKE36869,254:POKE36881,24
46 PRINT"(CLR)"
47 POKE36878,0
48 POKE36879,25
50 PRINT"(CYAN) ***** (RED) ALARM CLOCK (CYAN) *****
(RED)"
60 INPUT"CORRECT TIME":TI$
70 INPUT"(CD) ALARM TIME":AL$
80 PRINT"(CLR)"
90 PRINT"(CYAN) ***** (RED) ALARM CLOCK (CYAN) *****
(RED)"
100 PRINT"(6CR) (2CD) TIME IS"
105 PRINT"(6CR)";LEFT$(TI$,2);":":MID$(TI$,3,2);
":":RIGHT$(TI$,2)
110 PRINT"(6CR) (LCD) ALARM IS"
115 PRINT"(6CR)";LEFT$(AL$,2);":":MID$(AL$,3,2);
":":RIGHT$(AL$,2)
120 FORR=1TO6000:NEXTR
130 PRINT"(CLR)"
131 PRINTCHR$(158)
132 POKE36879,8
140 PRINT"(HOME) (6CD) (6CR)";LEFT$(TI$,2);":":
MID$(TI$,3,2);":":RIGHT$(TI$,2)
150 IFAL$=TI$THEN165
160 GOTO140
165 PRINT"(HOME) (RED) (3CD) (8CR) TIME"
168 PRINT"(HOME) (6CD) (6CR)";LEFT$(TI$,2);":":
MID$(TI$,3,2);":":RIGHT$(TI$,2)
170 POKE36878,15
180 FORI=135TO239
190 FORH=1TO100:NEXTH
200 POKE36879,I
210 POKE36876,I
220 NEXTI
230 GETA$:IFA$="s"THEN46
240 GOTO165

```

Kaleidoscope
by Ian Reynolds

Egghead

on Vic20

This program is based entirely on the Circle command and written for a Vic20 with a Super Expander cartridge fitted. When the program is run the user inputs the width of the gap between each circle. Then the egg (circle) is drawn and then when it has been drawn the user hits any key to re-run the program.

Program notes:

Lines 10-50: input step (width) of egg.

Lines 60-80: setting up screen and character colours.

Lines 90-110: drawing of egg.

Line 120: waiting for an input.

Line 230: clear the screen.

Line 140: re-run the program.

0 REM EGGHEAD

1 REM(C) R. HAYNES 1982

10 INPUT"WIDTH OF GAP":W

20 IFW<50ANDW>100THEN60

30 PRINT"WIDTH TO 500 ONLY"

40 FORW=1TO2000:NEXTW

50 GOTO10

60 GRAPHIC3

70 C=1+INT(RND(1)*6)

80 COLOR0,0,C,C

90 FORX=0TO511STEPW

100 CIRCLEC,511,511,X,X

110 NEXTX

120 POKE198,0:WAIT198,1:POKE198,0

130 SCHCLR:GRAPHIC0

140 GOTO10

Alarm Clock

by Philip Edwards

Egghead

by Robin Haynes

Open Forum

Alarm Clock

on Vic 20

This is an alarm clock for the unexpanded Vic20. First of all it asks you the correct time, then what time you wish the alarm to go off. When it prints the time until it equals the alarm time and then ...

Lines
27 to 45 Doubles up the characters.
50 to 115 Receives data for clock.
131 to 168 Prints Clock.
170 to 240 Makes chime.

Rad = control red.
Clr = clear screen.
Cr = cursor right.
Cd = cursor down.
Home = cursor home.

Astrosdash

on BBC Micro

This program, called Astrosdash, for the model A or B BBC Micro, plays a simple version of the popular arcade game Asteroids. It runs in Mode 4, so is only in black and white. It makes some use of the Beeb's special features, which take it one step ahead of its close competitors, eg, use definable graphics, enveloping, etc. The asteroids move up the screen in a scrolling motion.

In the game, you only have one life to play with, so quick finger on the button reactions are needed to stay alive.

When the program is run, you will be given instructions on which keys to use. The game itself runs in just over 2K.

```
170 PRINTTAB(11,2);"A S T R O S D A S H"
180 PRINTTAB(1,3);STRIND(19,"")
190 PRINTTAB(4,8);"(C) By David Potter, 13 Years old"
200 PRINTTAB(4,9);STRIND(33,"")
210 PRINTTAB(15,11);"CONTROLS:-"
220 PRINTTAB(5,13);"Left arrow key moves ship left"
230 PRINTTAB(5,15);"Right arrow key moves ship right"
240 PRINTTAB(12,17);"Spacebar to fire"
250 PRINTTAB(12,24);"ANY KEY TO PLAY"
260 G%-GET$:XS=640;YS=800:CLG
270 *FX 4.1
280 IF SC=HI HI=SC
290 VDU 5
300 PROCPOINT:PROCSCORE
310 A=INKEY()
320 IF A=32 PROCFIRE
330 IF XS>30 AND A=88B XS=XS-30
340 IF XS<1200 AND A=88B XS=XS+30
350 *FX 15.0
360 CCOL0,1:MOVE XS,YS:PRINTG$;H$
370 PROCPOINT
380 VDU 4:XR=RD(38+1):Y=28
390 IF RND(1)>0.50 PRINTTAB(X,Y);E$;GOTO 410
400 PRINT TAB(X,Y);A$;B$;TAB(X,Y+1);C$;D$
410 VDU 5:MOVE XS,YS:GCOL 0,1:PRINTG$;H$
420 PROCPOINT
430 VDU 4
440 IF RND(1)>0.90 THEN 290
450 PRINTTAB(0,3);SPC(40):GOTO 290
460 DEFPPOINT
470 P=POINT(XS+30,YS-32):IF P=1 PROCCRASH
480 P=POINT(XS,YS):IF P=1 PROCCRASH
490 P=POINT(XS+60,YS+2):IF P=1 PROCCRASH
500 ENDPPOINT
510 DEFPPOINT
520 MOVE XS,YS:GCOL 0,1:PRINTG$;H$
530 SOUND 0,3,1,5
540 MOVE XS+15,YS-30
550 XB=XS+15:VDU 5
560 FOR YB=YS-30 TO 0 STEP-30
570 GCOL 0,1:MOVE XB,YB:PRINT "x"
580 PD=POINT(XB,YB-20):IF PD=1 PROCHIT
590 GCOL 0,1:MOVE XB,YB-20:IF PD=1 PROCHIT
600 GCOL 0,1:MOVE XB,YB:PRINT "x"
610 NEXT YB:ENDPROC
620 DEFPPOINT
```

```
10 PRINT"INPUT START"
20 INPUTS
25 FORF=STOS+100
30 Y=PEEK(F):V=INT(X/15):Z=X-Y*16
40 IFZ>9THENZ=Z+7
50 IFZ>9THENV=Y+7
60 Z=Z+48:V=Y+48
70 PRINTCHR$(Y);CHR$(Z);" ";
80 NEXTF:PRINT
90 PRINT"PRESS ANY KEY TO RESTART"
100 PRINT"OR SPACE TO CONTINUE"
110 IFAS=IFAS=""THEN10
120 GETA$="":THENS=F:PRINT" ":GOTO25
130 RUN
```

Blockloader
by Ian Hegerty

```
10 REM **** ASTROSMASH (C) By David Potter
20 ENVELOPE1,8,1,0,0,1,0,0,127,-5,-1,-8,128,0
30 ENVELOPE 3,2,-1,0,0,50,0,0,120,-1,0,-1,120,80
40 VDU 23,225,56,124,63,31,12,6,3,1
50 VDU 23,226,28,62,252,248,48,96,192,128
60 VDU 23,227,3,15,31,63,63,127,255,255
70 VDU 23,228,224,240,240,252,252,254,255,255
80 VDU 23,229,255,255,63,127,63,31,7,7
90 VDU 23,230,255,254,254,240,248,248,224,224
100 VDU 23,231,28,126,127,255,254,127,254,60
110 A$=CHR$(227):B$=CHR$(228)
120 C$=CHR$(229):D$=CHR$(230)
130 G$=CHR$(225):H$=CHR$(226)
140 E$=CHR$(231)
150 SC=0:HI=0:MODE 4
160 CLS:VDU 4:VDU 23;B202;0;0;0;0;
```

```
630 SOUND 0,1,4,2:VDU 5
640 GCOL 0,1:MOVE XB,YB:PRINT E$
650 MOVE XB,YB:PRINT A$;B$
660 MOVE XB,YB-30:PRINT C$;D$
670 SC=SC+40:ENDPROC
680 DEFPPOINT
690 VDU 4
700 PRINT TAB(3,1);"SCORE = "ISC
710 PRINTTAB(20,1);"HIScore = "HI
720 VDU 5:ENDPROC
730 DEFPPOINT
740 MOVE XS,YS:GCOL 0,1:PRINTG$;H$
750 SOUND 0,1,-3,8:CLG
760 *FX 15.0
770 PROCENDPROC
780 DEFPPOINT
790 PRINTTAB(8,10);"YOUR SCORE HAS *** "ISC;" ***"
800 IF SC=HI HI=SC
810 PRINTTAB(6,12);"THE HIGH SCORE IS *** "HI;" ***"
820 PRINTTAB(10,16);"ANOTHER GAME (Y/N) ?"
830 *FX 15.0
840 Z$=GET$
850 IF Z$="Y" SC=0:GOTO 160
860 *FX 4.0
870 CLS:VDU 4:END
880 ENDPPOINT
```

Astrosdash
by David Potter

```
5 CLS
10 DNR=RD(0:0:0)
20 DNR=RD(0:0:0):F=30:G=30:Z=0:G=0
30 INPUT"ENTER 2:PLAY 3:DISPLAY":F=F+GOTO40,70,80
40 A=2:INPUT"1:DEL 2:ADD":B=0:G=0:GOTO50,60
50 INPUT"DELETE HOW MANY?":A=A-B:Z=Z+B:GOTO30
60 A=A+1:INPUT"Ch,Fr,Bu":C(A),F(A),B(A):IF C(A)=9:GOTO30 ELSE 40
70 A=0:GOTO30
80 B=0:GOTO30
90 INPUT"Sound":C(B):"Load":F(B):"B":GOTO30
100 REPORT:PRINT "DEL:FRM=1:GOTO30:EXTN:GOTO30"
```

Music Instruction
by Carol Bowerman

turn to page 20

Open Forum

Music Development

on BBC Micro

Recently many music programs in which the songs are entered in musical-type notation, have been published. Their main drawbacks are:

1. Musical knowledge is essential.
2. The "noise" channel is hard to cater for in this way.
3. The numbers indicating the frequency used by the sound command are not displayed and such programs can not be used to develop musical effects for games etc.

I thus wrote a short, simple program which allowed the easy manipulation of sound effects.

The menu on line 30 allows songs to be entered and notes deleted using option 1, songs to be played option 2, or displayed option 3.

In enter mode the channel number, the frequency and the duration are entered (loudness is fixed at -5) in that order. To exit enter mode, a dummy note 9,0,0 is entered.

To delete notes enter edit mode (option 1) and then choose the *Del.* option. Respond to the prompt by indicating the number of notes to be deleted.

All note synchronisation, flushing and continuation controls are available. The hexadecimal number for the channel should be worked out and this should be entered as the channel number, after having been converted to decimal.

For example, to play a note immediately, regardless of the queue, on channels 2 and 12, loudness, frequency, duration is normally entered: this should be entered as decimal 18. L.F.D.

Battleships

on BBC Micro

This program is based on the well-known game of Battleships and runs on both the Model A and B. Four naval ships are placed on a 10x10 square by the operator and the computer randomly places its own fleet.

Ship positions

The positions of your ships are shown on

```

20 REM *****
20 REM *
30 REM *   BATTLESHIPS   *
40 REM *
50 REM *       BY       *
60 REM *
70 REM *   MATTHEW   *
80 REM *
90 REM *   KEELING   *
100 REM *****
110 PEM *****
120 CLG
130 CLS
140 PRINTAB(0,2)W=4:GRID TEN BY TEN YOU CAN PLACE THREE SHIPS
AND A SUBMARINE .EG. 9 ACROSS AND 2 UP SHOULD BE TYPED IN AS
'9,2'. WHEN THE POSITIONS HAVE BEEN CHOSEN THE GRID WILL BE
DRAWN AND THE SHIPS PLOTTED."
150 PRINTAB(0,9)W=HERE DO YOU WANT TO PLACE THE ...."
160 PRINTAB(0,11)W=SUBMARINE "
170 VDU 11:VDU 9:VDU 9:VDU 9:VDU 9:VDU 9:VDU 9:VDU 9:VDU 9:
VDU 9:VDU 9:VDU 9
180 INPUT S,SS
190 IF S > 10 OR SS > 10 PRINT*PLEASE STATE THAT AGAIN*:INPUT S,SS:
GOTO 190
200 PRINT*BATTLESHIP "
210 VDU 11:VDU 9:VDU 9:VDU 9:VDU 9:VDU 9:VDU 9:VDU 9:VDU 9:VDU 9:
VDU 9:VDU 9:VDU 9
220 INPUT B,BB
230 IF B < 5 AND BB < 55 PRINT*YOU HAVE GOT THE SUBMARINE THERE*:
VDU 9:GOTO 220
240 IF B > 10 OR BB > 10 PRINT*PLEASE STATE THAT AGAIN*:INPUT B,BB:
GOTO 240
250 PRINT*FRIGATE "
260 VDU 11:VDU 9:VDU 9:VDU 9:VDU 9:VDU 9:VDU 9:VDU 9:VDU 9:VDU 9:
VDU 9:VDU 9:VDU 9
270 B = RND(99) + 10:U = 9
280 FOR C = 10 TO 109
290 U = U + 1
300 IF U > 108 U = U - 99
310 C = U DIV 10
320 CC = U - CC * 10 + 1
330 COLOUR IN(13)
340 IF C > 10 OR CC > 10 C = C - 10 : CC = CC - 10
350 PRINTAB(0,2)W=WHERE DO YOU WANT TO SHOOT*
360 PRINTAB(0,3)W=
370 PRINTAB(2,7)Z**
380 INPUT Z,ZZ
390 IF Z < 5 AND ZZ < 55 CC PRINTAB(0,8)W= YOU'VE HIT MY SUBMARINE*
400 IF C = 99 AND ZZ = 99 SOUND 0,-15,4:10
410 IF Z = 8C AND ZZ = 8BC PRINTAB(0,9)W= YOU'VE HIT MY BATTLESHIP
18C = 99:BBC = 99:SOUND 0,-15,4:10
420 IF Z = FC AND ZZ = FFC PRINTAB(0,10)W= YOU'VE HIT MY FRIGATE*:
FC = 99:FFC = 99:SOUND 0,-15,4:10
430 IF Z < 4L AND ZZ < 4AC PRINTAB(0,11)W= YOU'VE HIT MY AIRCRAFT
CARRIER*:AC = 99:4AC = 99:SOUND 0,-15,4:10
440 IF CC = 99 AND 55 AND 8C = 99 AND BBC = 99 AND FC = 99 AND
FFC = 99 AND 99 AND 99 AND 99 AND 99 PRODC
450 IF C = 55 AND CC = 55 PRINTAB(0,14)W= I'VE HIT YOUR SUBMARINE*:
PRINTAB(CZ,-1,110-CC*2-2)+24)***5 = 99:55 = 99:
SOUND 0,-15,4:10
460 IF C = 8C AND CC = 8B PRINTAB(0,5)W= I'VE HIT YOUR BATTLESHIP*:
PRINTAB(CZ,-1,110-CC*2-2)+24)***18 = 99:188 = 99:
SOUND 0,-15,4:10
470 IF C = F AND CC = FF PRINTAB(0,6)W= I'VE HIT YOUR SUBMARINE*:
PRINTAB(CZ,-1,110-CC*2-2)+24)***2F = 99:FF = 99:
SOUND 0,-15,4:10
480 IF C = A AND CC = AA PRINTAB(0,7)W= I'VE HIT YOUR AIRCRAFT
CARRIER*:PRINTAB(CZ,-1,110-CC*2-2)+24)***A = 99:1AA = 99:
SOUND 0,-15,4:10
490 IF S = 99 AND 55 AND 8C = 99 AND BB = 99 AND F = 99 AND
FF = 99 AND A = 99 AND AA = 99 PRODC
500 NEXT
510 END
520 DEF PRICE
530 CLG
540 PRINTAB(10,10)W=YOU'VE WON*
550 GOTO 101W
560 ENDPROC
570 DEF PUNCH
580 CLG
590 PRINTAB(10,10)W=I'VE WON*
600 GOTO 101W

```

the screen, and then you and the computer alternatively try to sink each other's ships.

When one of your ships has been destroyed it is replaced by an asterisk and a list is maintained at the top of the screen as to what has been sunk.

The computer begins at a random number working its way around the board systematically, never firing upon the same square twice. Inbuilt checks are made to ensure that no two ships are placed on the same square.

turn to next page


```

0000 ENDPROC
0010 TIME = 0
0020 REPEAT
0030 UNTIL TIME > 100
0040 CLG
0050 CLS
0060 PRINTTAB(0,10)""
0070 INPUT "DO YOU WANT ANOTHER GO?"X$
0080 IF X$ = "YES" OR X$ = "Y" THEN GOTO 10
0090 IF X$ = "NO" OR X$ = "N" THEN GOTO 110
0100 GOTO 1040
0110 FOR A = 0 TO 10
0120 PRINTSP(10,SPORI + . . .)
0130 NEXT
0140 TIME = 0:REPEAT UNTIL TIME > 100:CLG
0150 CLS

```

by Matthew Keelino

on Spectrum

Fig. 1



W — holds the *Inkey\$* value for cursor control.

on Spectrum

As the instructions are rather lengthy, they can be omitted, if preferred, to save time, but this will detract from the visual presentation.

Scribble
Anonymous

```

1000 PRINT "NEXT 9: 1:": NEXT 9: PRINT "A
1010 IF GO TO 1000: LET A=0: GOTO 1000
1020 FOR Q=1 TO 10: PRINT A: S: F
1030 IF Q=10 THEN GOTO 1000: PRINT "T
1040 LET A=AC1+1: LET A1=A1+1: GOTO
1050 GOTO 510
1060 PRINT AT 10.10: FLASH 1:"NO
1070 BOMB-5E MIN"
1080 GOTO 10.10: FLASH 1:"VO
1090 GOTO 510
1100 CLS
1110 PRINT "NUCLEAR HOLocaust
1120 PRINT "This war game is be
1130 come a heart breaker and nuclear
1140 war has been declared throughout
1150 the world. The high position
1160 in terms of power for
1170 the state and the bombing
1180 sites, your task is to destroy
1190 the enemy and your own
1200 abiding them whether direct hits
1210
1220 PRINT "then to move into a
1230 nuclear war zone. The high
1240 foot print then they are
1250 killed by the high radiation
1260 and the high radiation
1270 cities then some of your bomb
1280 manage to cross the war area
1290 and it killed
1300 PRINT "FLASH 1:"PRESS ANY
1310 KEY"
1320 PRASE 0: CLS
1330 PRINT "REURRE- your bomb su
1340
1350 PRINT "FLASH 1:"PRESS ANY
1360 KEY"
1370 PRASE 0: CLS
1380 PRINT "COOLBOL"
1390 PRINT "To drop a bomb you
1400 first press 1 to start
1410 the bomb and then press 2
1420 to start the vert and
1430
1440 PRINT "FLASH 1:"PRESS ANY
1450 KEY"
1460 PRASE 0: CLS
1470 PRINT "NUCLEAR FOOTPRINT
1480 PRINT "
1490 PRINT "eRussian tank"
1500 PRINT "your defence line
1510 PRINT "
1520 PRINT "eYour horie sight"
1530 PRINT "your defence line
1540 PRINT "FLASH 1:"PRESS ANY
1550 KEY"
1560 PRASE 0: CLS
1570 INPUT "LEVEL 1-9,9=any 7"
1580
1590 LET L=INT: IF L1 OR L9
1600 LET L=10
1610 PRINT "
1620

```

Holocaust
by Nick Wilson

In this slot various contributors explore different aspects of the ZX Spectrum

Charted by numbers

Malcolm Davison explains how to draw bar-charts to illustrate your programs.

This is a general purpose graph (or more accurately bar-chart) program which will plot one to 12 values from one to multi-millions. The vertical scale is set by the highest value and can be either five or 10 'units' in value (see examples).

The graph can be given different colours and a title up to 30 letters long. If any values to be charted are negative, the appropriate bar is printed in red but above the x axis.

While the program was written to handle financial information, it would not be difficult to change the units to "sheep", "tons" or anything else. The '£' sign and scale of value is given in lines 2157 and 2160. As an alternative to the numbers 1-12 along the x axis, a routine to put the month's initials 'JFMA...' could be written.

One application for this program would be for a marketing or sales lecture where the graphs required as a visual aid could be stored on tape and loaded as needed. A program to handle the searching and loading could be employed, but by making careful use of the tape counter on the tape recorder and using Load 'graph name' Screen, such a program should not be necessary. The speed of access and display should be greatly enhanced by the new microdrive.

The other use of the program would be to print out graphs for use in reports, although much of the impact is lost through the lack of colour. The title of the graph should be printed in true video rather than inverse, to make it easier to read (delete *Inverse 1*: in line 2180).

The colour check, lines 1040, 1070 and 1110, tests the input colour value. It does not allow the use of red as a *Paper* or *Ink* colour, or white as a *Paper* colour and prevents defining the *Paper* and *Ink* colours as the same colour. The input values are stored in a numeric array (lines 2071, 2075) after being checked as numeric inputs in the validation routine (3000-3050).

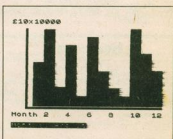
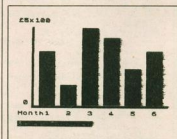
Lines 2080 to 2095 search for the largest input value and lines 2115 and 2120 decide whether a 10 unit or five unit vertical scale should be used. (The flag 'Five=1' indicates the latter.)

Two bar widths are available, depending upon whether there are more than six input values (the variable *H* stores the number input values). Lines 2210 to 2280 handle the six or less values and lines 2207 to 2240 the seven to 12 values. Lines 2285

and 2215 change the colour of the bar to red if the value is negative.

To determine the height of the bar, lines 2210 and 2280 work out the proportion of

113 plot positions represented by the input value — the maximum value of the vertical scale being represented by *Range* previously determined in lines 2201 and 2205.

[illegible][illegible]



Tony Bastable, presenter of Thames TV's Database programme.

Chimp champ chit-chat show

Paul Kriwaczek looks at Database — Thames TV's micro programme.

Database is a half hour programme about microcomputers produced by Thames TV. The first episode was shown on Tuesday, October 12, at 11.30 pm.

At that time of night, it has to be a try on. ITV wants to see if its info-tech version of Wheelbase can pull an audience. On the showing of the first episode in the series, my feeling is that they have a winner.

Of course it is not anything like the BBC's Computer Programme, but then it was not intended to be. Database is simply to the micro what Wheelbase is to the motor, Tony Bastable and all.

The programme started with a visit to the appalling Milton Keynes house, that palace of misplaced technology, where it seems you cannot even turn on the lights without having to twiddle some infernal remote control. The central heating programmer, in normal houses a small and unobtrusive box, has here grown like a triffid, out of control all over a wall, until it looks like something that fell off the Tardis. But then, it allows you to program the heating a year ahead. It doesn't, however, provide a weather forecast.

On the interactive video-link, one is invited to participate in a council meeting, apparently under the control of a group of raving madmen.

The programme, thank goodness, refused to take all this too seriously and allowed itself to poke gentle fun at some of the excesses. Under what circumstances, Bastable wanted to know, would one need the facility for opening and closing the front room curtains by telephone link from abroad?

The Milton Keynes house is incorporated in a cable television network, a fact which led elegantly on to the next item — cable television. With excellent topicality, this concerned the publication of the Hunt report on cabling-up Britain. There was an intelligent interview with Lord Hunt, differing from the news reports of the day by concentrating on the technical implications of the document — coaxial cable versus glass fibre, and the provision of interactive services.

Then we had the sketch. This was Lion House getting its own back on the Computer Programme by demonstrating that Roy Kinnear is not their only salesman. A personable young man behind the counter performed admirably with the hearty embarrassment of the well-rehearsed ad-lib, dispensing jolly and perhaps a little optimistic advice on educational software for the TI micro. "But is it always like this," came the cry, and so, quick as a flash, over we went to our resident expert.

Dr Michael Thorne is a truly wonderful boffin, heavily bearded and with some kind of nervous twitch of the eyes, inhabiting a lunatic set full of giant resistors and pcb tracks. As he addressed us on the subject of the low standard of some commercial software, he was accompanied by a sort of squeaking noise that made me at first think he had mice about his person.

The joke turned out to be on me, because when the camera pulled back, it was to reveal the presence in the studio of a chimpanzee — the resident software quality control expert. The idea was an ironic reversal of Turing's test — any

Reviews

programme that cannot tell there is a chimpanzee and not a human at the other end of the joystick, cannot be all that bright. Next week, said Dr Thorne, he would be looking at the hardware. Whether the chimp had a long-running contract too, he did not reveal.

There followed, from the *Personal Computer World* show earlier in the year, a dutiful interview with two computer clubmen, to show that computer enthusiasts are just ordinary people. People simply do not come more ordinary than this pair.

And finally, for the reading of the latest micro news, we were back in the studio. Studio? The set appeared to be a cross between Carl Sagan's *Cosmos* space ship, and something out of the stills under



Paul Kriwaczek

the *Star Trek* credits, all screens, points and cubic curves. The presenter sat down at what was supposed to be a desk. Being Tony Bastable, I expected him to drive it away.

All in all, a most enjoyable show. I wish ITV well with it. And if I am awake that late on Tuesday nights, I shall continue to watch. So should you.

Whats happening

SUFFOLK ZX81 USERS interested in setting up a software library should telephone P. Cockerton or R. Rees on Bury St Edmunds 4312 or 4867 (after 5 pm).

THE AUSTRALASIAN ZX USERS NEWSLETTER is published nine times per year. Membership is open to all ZX users. Contact Paul Jansen, PO Box 397, Dapto, NSW 2530, Australia.

MICRO-MART '82 will be held at St Francis School Hall, Bourneville Lane, Birmingham, on November 13. The show, including club stands, retail exhibitors, and a bring-and-buy stall, will be open from 10 am to 6 pm, tickets 50p.

Machine Code

Ian Stewart and Robin Jones present a new series for beginners

Registering the bits and bytes

8 bits 8 bits 8 bits 8 bits

A	F	A'	F'
B	C	B'	C'
D	E	D'	E'
H	L	H'	L'

general-purpose registers

main set	alternate set*
IX	
IY	
SP	
PC	

special-purpose registers

16 bits

Here is the register organisation:

Ignore the alternate set for the moment.

The registers appear in pairs, indicating that they may be used either as 8-bit or 16-bit registers. For instance, we can refer to the B-register (8 bits), or the C register (8 bits) or the BC register (16 bits). The B, C, D, E, H and L registers can all be used in this way (but only in pairs Bc, De and Hl) but the A and F registers are strictly 8-bit registers and cannot be combined. For the 16-bit pairs, the senior byte is the left-hand one (B, D and H) as you would expect.

There are two index registers, IX and IY, a stack pointer (SP) and program counter (PC). Any of the 16-bit general-purpose register pairs (Bc, De or Hl) can be used for indirection but, for simplicity, we shall always use Hl for this purpose.

Load

Let's look at the Load (Ld) operation as an example of the 8-bit group. It's very like the Ld instruction in our imaginary machine, except that two extra addressing modes are allowed: register-to-register, and immediate. That gives a total of five addressing modes, with direct, indirect and indexed available as before.

Direct addressing is much the same as our imaginary equivalent, except that, since there is more than one register, we have to specify which register we want loaded:

LDA, (R1C)

This loads the contents of 0F1C into the A-register. Note that, by convention, the movement is from right to left, so that we can write:

If you have any machine code sub-routines/tips/games, please send them to: Machine Code, Popular Computing Weekly, Hobhouse Court, 19 Whitcomb Street, London WC2 7HF.

LD (0F1C), A

and mean "copy the contents of the A-register into 0F1C". Actually, the A-register is the only 8-bit register which can be directly addressed.

Indirect addressing is also straightforward. Since we are going to standardise on the Hl for indirection, the instruction format is:

LD A, (HL)

which means "load the A-register through (ie from the address contained in) the Hl register". To pass data in the opposite direction we could have:

LD (HL), A

which puts the contents of A into the address contained in Hl. Registers other than A are allowed for this instruction.

Indexed addressing. Here, we need to indicate which index register is in use, and the amount of the offset:

LD A, (IX + 2E)

Note that in direct addressing, we showed an address of 4 hex digits, because 16 bits (2 bytes) are allowed for the address. The offset value in an indexed address instruction must be held in 1 byte, however, so we have only shown two hex digits.

Register-to-register. We can transfer data between registers like this:

LD B,B

which means: "load the contents of B into D".

Immediate. Here, data itself, rather than the address of data, is placed in the address field. So we can write:

LD B, 07

to mean "put the number 7 in B". Note again that the number is two hex digits, since it has to be stored in the single byte of the B-register. Note also that a Ld is really a copy — the numbers are retained in their original addresses or registers, but a copy is placed at the destination.

Now let's see what each of these instructions looks like in hex:

1. LDA, (R1C)

First we look up the opcode for the Ld A, (nn) instruction (the nn indicates a general 2 byte address). This is 3A. So you would expect the instruction to code as:

3A 0F 1C

Unfortunately, there is a slight complication caused by the way the Z80 thinks about numbers. It likes the least significant (junior) byte of an address first. So we have to swap the address bytes round:

3A 1C 0F

This is mildly annoying, but you soon get used to it. It is an invariable rule for 2-byte numbers in Z80 instructions: junior byte first, then senior. Hence all those Peek X + 256 * Peek (X + 1)'s in the Sinclair Manual.

The Ld (nn), A instruction has the code 32, so:

LD (0F1C) becomes 32 1C 0F

2. LD A, (HL)

This is easy. There is no address part so it's just a 1-byte opcode. Look it up and you'll find it's 7E. Similarly Ld (HL), A codes as 77.

3. LD A, (IX + 2E)

The general instruction is Ld A, (IX + d), d indicating a 1-byte displacement (in 2's complement notation). Its code is DD 7E. So the instruction is:

DD 7E 2E

where the byte 2E is the displacement chosen in this case.

4. LD B,B

No problem here, again. The code is 50.

5. LD B, 07

The opcode is 06 so the instruction is 06

07.

What about arithmetic? There's an Add and a Sub instruction, both of which refer to the A-register, and which may use any of the addressing modes except direct.

Let's try writing a program to add the numbers 4 and 7 together. This would work:

LD A, 04 [put 4 in the A-reg.]

LD B, 07 [put 7 in the B-reg.]

ADD A,B [add them, and put the result in the A-reg.]

Now store the result away somewhere:

LD (4300), A

Here's the program, the hex code, and the decimal equivalent:

Program	Hex	Decimal
LD A, 04	3E 04	62 04
LD B, 07	06 07	06 07
ADD A, B	80	128
LD (4300), A	32 00 43	50 00 67

We are left with the problem of loading this code into the ZX81, and then executing it. Since we are going to do a number of machine code routines, it is worthwhile writing a Basic program which loads and then executes machine code.

This is fairly easy. In principle, all we need to do is ask the user where he wants to put the code in memory, then ask for each byte of code in turn, and Poke it into the appropriate location. Then run the program calling the Usr function. Finally, Peek all the program locations and data area to ensure that the program is still intact and that the results are correct.

Obviously, it makes sense to have the data and program areas adjoining. So we will adopt this convention — the data area always precedes the program area, and is loaded with zeros to start with. We will begin by asking the user the size of his data area (as a number of bytes).

There is one other problem. According to the Sinclair Manual, all routines called by Usr have to end the same way:

LD A, IE

LD I, A

LD IY, 4000

RET

FD 21 00 40

253 33 00 64

C9

201

Actually, it is that final Ret that is crucial.

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Dragon



In the land of the Red Dragon

It is a rare accolade for a home computer to be allocated its own page in *Popular Computing Weekly*. We have decided to follow up the success of the Spectrum page with this Dragon page because:

a) The Dragon is a very interesting microcomputer with a good number of new features.

b) Many Dragon owners will either have no previous experience of computing or will have graduated from smaller machines such as the ZX81. To all these people many of the features of the Microsoft colour Basic used on the Dragon will seem quite peculiar at first.

c) The complexity of the Dragon and its use of the 6809 microprocessor means it will be a long time before we have all mastered all the intricacies of the machine. If we each let each other know what we discover we can all learn more quickly.

This page, therefore, depends on you being willing to share your discoveries with us and sending them to this page.

To start the page off we have a Flying Saucers program submitted by John Wrennel, a new Dragon owner. It shows a few of the simple peculiarities of Dragon Basic and is quite well documented.

In the coming weeks we hope to run a feature on the main differences between Dragon Basic and Sinclair ZX81 and Spectrum Basic and then, one by one, explore, with sample programs, some of the more unusual commands available to you.

Flying Saucer

No separate instructions are required for this program as they will be displayed when the program is run. Any key will fire a shell.

Here is a description of the structure of the program.

Program notes

Lines
10 to 18 Set screen and define ship
20 to 60 Draw ground and gun
70 to 110 Position stars
120 Delay
130 to 165 Initialise
175 Random factor for speed
170 to 210 Find a height (c) for ship

220 to 380 Movement across screen
240 Check for only one shell at a time
250 Get any key to fire
275 to 290 Check for hit
300 to 310 Destroy ship accompanied by random noise
340 Blank saucer and shell's last positions
350 Check for shell off screen
400 to 460 10 ships hit — win
500 to 550 More than 15 shots taken — lose
600 to 700 Random time warp

Variables

SHS Defines ship; gives impression of rotation
OF\$ Blanks ship; gives impression of rotation
SS Shots label

HS Hits label
CHRS (X) Plotting Characters i.e.
60 <
79 0
62 >
32 Δ (space)
246 Graphic Ground
43 + (star)
X — Horizontal position of ship
SH — Number of shots
H1 — Number of hits
N — Height of shell
SA — Number of aliens
Q — Position of alien
Z — Position of shell
C — Height of alien
F — Hit flag

Optional Time Warp

```
308 IF RND(20)=10 THEN 600
600 CLS:100SUB700:CLS1:100SUB700:CLS2:100SUB700
610 CLS3:100SUB700:CLS4:100SUB700:CLS5:100SUB700
620 GOTO 5
700 FOR D=1 TO RND(5):SOUND RND(250),RND(5):NEXT D
710 RETURN
```

PROGRAM PROPER

FLYING SAUCERS

```
5 'FLYING SAUCERS
10 CLS 1
15 SHS=CHR$(60)+CHR$(79)+CHR$(62):'DEFINE SHIP
18 OF$=CHR$(32)+CHR$(32)+CHR$(32):'BLANK SHIP
20 FOR I=480 TO 510
30 PRINTI1,CHR$(246):NEXT I:'DRAW GROUND
40 FOR I=1 TO 3:PRINTI1+472,CHR$(160)
50 NEXT I
60 PRINTI442,CHR$(160):PRINTI410,CHR$(79)
65 RESTORE
70 DATA 45,234,252,320,60,101,366
80 FOR X=0 TO 6
90 READ A
100 PRINTI0A,CHR$(43):'POSITION STARS
110 NEXT X
120 FOR D=1 TO 1000:NEXT D:'DELAY
130 SH=0:H1=0
140 N=0:SA=0
150 SH="SHOTS="
160 HS="HITS="
165 PRINTI14,SH:PRINTI56,HS
170 R=RND(10):N=N+RND(2)=0
175 V2=RND(150)
180 SA=SA+1
190 IF R=7 THEN C=4:GOTO 220
200 IF R<3 THEN C=6:GOTO 220
210 C=9
220 FOR X=0 TO 29
225 O=32+C+X
228 SOUND 250,1
230 PRINTO0,SH:
240 IF N<0 THEN 270
245 PRINTI410,CHR$(79)
250 RE=INVE$ IF RE="" THEN 330
260 SH=SH+1:PRINTI21,SH:PRINTI410," "
270 N=N+1
275 FOR L=0 TO 2
278 Z=377-(33*N)
280 IF SHL=2 THEN F=1:GOTO 300
290 NEXT L:GOTO 320
300 PRINTO0-1," * "I:H1=H1+1
305 FOR V=1 TO RND(5)+5:SOUND RND(250),1:NEXT V
310 PRINTI62,H1:IF H1=10 THEN 400
315 GOTO 340
320 PRINTI2,CHR$(79):
330 FOR B1=1 TO V2:NEXT B1:'ALIEN SPEED DELAY
340 PRINTO0,OF$:PRINTI2,CHR$(32):
350 IF N=10 THEN N=0:GOTO 380
360 IF SH<20 THEN 500
370 IF F=1 THEN F=0:GOTO 170
380 NEXT X
390 GOTO 170
400 CLS(3):
410 PRINTI170,"YOU WIN....":
420 PRINTI230,"NO. OF INVADERS=":PRINTI251,SA:
430 PRINTI264,"SHOTS TAKEN=":PRINTI277,SH:
440 PRINTI294,"HITS MADE=":PRINTI316,H1:
450 PRINTI500," ":'STOP
500 CLS(6):PRINTI140,"OUT OF RND":
520 PRINTI200,SA:PRINTI205,"ALIENS ATTACKED":
530 PRINTI230,"YOU HIT WITH SHOTS!":
540 PRINTI238,H1:PRINTI246,SH-1:
550 GOTO 460
```

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ZX81

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TELL ME, INFORMATION

M J Birkinshaw of the New England College, Arundel, Sussex, writes:

Q I am a librarian and I have been asked to supply a book mentioned in your May 6 edition. Unfortunately, I cannot trace this publication, and would be very grateful for details of publisher, price, etc. The book concerned is 'The Basic Handbook (An Encyclopedia of Basic computer languages)' By David Lien.

A This is a problem that is starting to occur more often. A book is published in America, is imported and announced before it has had time to find its way into any of the more conventional catalogues. The book is in fact published by Compusoft Publishing, which is a sub-division of Compusoft Incorporated of San Diego, California 92111.

If you order it direct from the publishers it costs \$19.95 plus \$2.50 for postage and packaging. If you want it sent airmail then it is \$10 postage and packing. Otherwise, expect to wait 6-8 weeks. The money is payable in advance in funds drawn on a United States bank. You should send an order to 'Compusoft publishers', 1050 Pioneer Way, El Cajon, California 92020.

The ISBN is 0-932760-05-8 and the Library of Congress catalogue number is 81-67479. By now I would guess that there is a British distributor. I would suggest that you first tried to contact either Foyles Bookshop in Charing Cross Road, London, or else Computer Bookshop in Birmingham. Computer Bookshop is at the following address: 30 Lincoln Road, Olton, Birmingham B27 6PA. Tel: 021-707 7544.

BAUDOT SPEED WITH SINCLAIR

Michael Meynall of Blackheath, London, writes:

Q I own a ZX81 and I am saving up to buy a Spectrum. Before I order one, I would like to clear up a few points.

Can the ZX81 programs I have been running on to the Spectrum? Does Uncle Clive describe the machine code thoroughly in the Spectrum

handbook, or hasn't he learnt his lesson yet from the ZX81? When will the microdrives be available and how much will they cost? And does the RS232 board allow you to interface the ZX81 with the Spectrum?

A This letter covers a lot of individual questions from other readers. A ZX81 program can be run on a Spectrum, with exception of Pokes and Peeks, which often have different addresses. However, programs on cassette will not transfer because the baud rate of the Spectrum is very much faster than that of the 81. Also, the Spectrum scrolls automatically, so the Scroll function can be left out.

Unless you already have a good knowledge of machine code, the Spectrum handbook will not teach you to program in machine code. In all fairness, I feel that this is asking too much from a user manual. Machine code programming is a large subject in its own right. Nevertheless, Sinclair has learned from the ZX81 — the Spectrum manual is much better.

Latest date for the microdrives is now 1983 and not autumn 1982 as originally announced. The RS232 interface board will not allow you to connect up your ZX81 and Spectrum.

TURN THE FAT IN THE FIRE ONCE MORE

W Howard of Warbeck Drive, Blackpool, writes:

Q Due to the inability of Sinclair Research to supply a ZX Spectrum within 12 weeks (not the 28 days advertised), I would be obliged if you could forward me details of the new Acorn machine, and tell me when it is due on the market. My cancellation letter is on the way to Sinclair.

A Several people have written to me, who are upset by Sinclairs delivery times, and who consequently want to know more about the new Acorn Electron. In your particular case I fear that you have jumped out of the frying pan and into the fire. Information on the new Acorn has been hard to get hold of.

What is known is that it is a mini-BBC machine, with the same graphics and 16K Ram. It is thought that it will cost about £150, and should be

available early next year. Unfortunately, you still have another five months or so to wait. It must be said that Acorn never quoted a release date, and the announcement must be seen in the light of the launch of the Spectrum. However, it seems to me to be a little unwise to announce a new machine nine months before it can be delivered.

AT THE SIGN OF THE TETHERED GOAT

Derek Baskett of Battery Road, Cowes, Isle of Wight, writes:

Q After studying various magazines, I had finally decided to buy an Atari 400 as my first home computer. I had intended to buy a 48K or 32K machine from a mail-order company. Then I saw your Peek and Poke dated September 23, where you said that the Atari 400 is only capable of 16K Ram.

I have seen a number of advertisements for 32K and 48K Atari 400s and find it hard to believe that these companies are ripping everyone off. Does this mean that all the expanded Rams are going to be trouble-some? Or is it a ploy by Atari to entice people to buy the more expensive Atari 800? There is a lot of software for a 32K or 48K Atari 800. Would I be able to run this on an expanded 400?

Could you also tell me if the Atari 410 is the only cassette player that can be used with the Atari 400?

A Companies like Maplin which offer a memory modification have too good a reputation to lose by so blatantly ripping anyone off. If you bought a 32K or a 48K Atari from an independent manufacturer, then any Atari program up to your memory limit will run. If they do not, then check with whoever you buy the machine from that they offer their own guarantee.

The problem stems from the fact that the CPU in the Atari is capable of working with up to 64K of memory. An independent manufacturer will simply wire up the control lines for the other 16K or 32K. It is a situation more commonly found in the ZX end of the computer market, where an

independent manufacturer steps in to fill a gap in the market, which has been created by the original manufacturer not supplying what the customer wants.

As to whether this is a deliberate ploy by Atari or not, well, I do not think that they would want you to buy a 48K 400 as opposed to their own 48K 800. With Atari you are tied far more to their own products than you are with some other home computers, but they can usually supply what you want when you want it, something that cannot always be said for other computer manufacturers.

As far as I know, you have no choice other than the 410 cassette deck, and I cannot foresee an independent bringing out an alternative model at the moment.

A PENNY FOR THE GUY, SIR. A PENNY

G. Archer of Tatsfield, near Westerham, Kent, writes:

Q I am the proud owner of a Vic20. I have just read your review of the new Commodore 64. I am very impressed with what I read; I would like to know if a Vic20 can be upgraded to the new Commodore 64 specifications? Would it be exactly the same and how much would it cost? Could it be done by sending it to the Commodore factory, or could it be done by a Commodore dealer?

A In short I'm afraid that it cannot be done. The new Commodore 64 is a very different animal to the Vic20. A close reading of the review, with a pen and paper on hand, will reveal quite a long list of extras and improvements over the Vic20. I have not seen inside the machine but the PCB must be different, and the memory mapping certainly is.

The 64 is clearly aimed somewhere up-market of the Atari, and even the BBC model B. Remember it can accept a second microprocessor which makes CP/M possible, and Run Pet software. This puts it very clearly into the small business as well as the home category. Such features are too different to be overcome by conversion. So if you want one, I suggest that you start saving now.

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ANCIENT ALGORITHMS

PUZZLE NO 24

by Tony Roberts


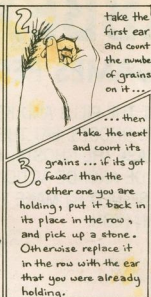
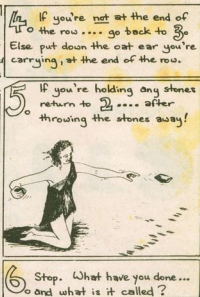
1. Take a sheaf of oats ...
... Lay them in a row...

2. take the first ear and count the number of grains on it ...
... then take the next and count its grains ... if it's got fewer than the other one you are holding, put it back in its place in the row, and pick up a stone. Otherwise replace it in the row with the ear that you were already holding.

4. If you're not at the end of the row ... go back to 3. Else put down the oat ear you're carrying, at the end of the row.

5. If you're holding any stones return to 2 ... after throwing the stones away!

6. Stop. What have you done ... and what is it called?

Solution to Puzzle No 24

This algorithm presents a method for converting binary numbers (represented by Tooth = 1, Hole = 0) into their decimal equivalents. In the jawbone illustrated in Issue No 24, the value was 10110111001 or 1465. The largest binary number — 11111111111111 — that can be converted using the alligator jawbone is $2^{14} + 2^{13} + 2^{12} \dots 2^1$ — which is 32,766.

A computer program to do the same thing might be:

```
10 S=L-Y=0
```

```
20 PRINT "Input jawbone number (Tooth = 1, Hole
```

```
30 INPUT J$
```

```
40 L=LEN J$
```

```
50 Y=Y+1
```

```
60 IF MID$(J$,Y,1) = "1" THEN S=S+1
```

```
70 IF Y=L THEN 130
```

```
80 S=S+2
```

```
90 Y=Y+1
```

```
100 IF MID$(J$,Y,1) = "0" THEN 70
```

```
110 S=S+1
```

```
120 GOTO 70
```

```
130 PRINT "Decimal equivalent of jawbone binary
```

```
number": S
```

140 END

In the helpful advice category were the remarks by entrants that (a) binary number conversion was much more stimulating to the cave person than fabricating alligator-tooth necklaces and (b) crocodiles were not as useful as alligators since they have fewer teeth and therefore smaller bytes.

Winner of Puzzle No 24

The winner is: L Morris, Longacres Drive, Whitworth, Rochdale, Lancs, who receives £10.

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YES, ARTHUR, IT CAN.

IT CAN CLIP BRANCHES.

NO, ARTHUR, NOT BRANCHES.

IT CAN NOT CLIP BRANCHES.
IT CAN BE PUT DOWN.
IT CAN BE PICKED UP.
IT CAN BE PUT DOWN IN A HEAP OF PAPER CLIPS.
IT CAN BE PUT DOWN IN A HEAP OF JUNK.
IT CAN BE PUT DOWN IN A HEAP OF DUNG.
IT CAN BE PUT DOWN A MIND WHERE IT COULD CLIP PAPER.

IT CAN BE PICKED UP WITH ONE HAND.

WITH ONE FINGER.

THAT WOULD BE A TEST

WITH A MAGNET.
WITH A FEELING ROD.
WITH THE TEETH.

THESE WOULD BE GAMES

IT CAN BE OPENED OUT

THAT WOULD BE WIRE

WIRE COULD BE
A WIRE HOOK
A WIRE MAN
A WIRELESS

NO, ARTHUR, A WIRELESS ISN'T MADE OF WIRE.

WIRE COULD NOT BE A WIRELESS
WIRE COULD BE A TELEGRAM

IT CAN CLIP TELEGRAMS.
IT CAN CLIP LETTERS.
IT CAN CLIP NAILS.



NO, ARTHUR, NOT NAILS.

IT CAN NOT CLIP NAILS.
CAN IT CLIP HEDGES?

NO, ARTHUR, NOT HEDGES.

IT CAN NOT NOT CLIP NEDGES
CAN IT CLIP LETTERS?

YES, LETTERS.

IT CAN CLIP A TO B

IT CAN CLIP B TO C

IT CAN CLIP C TO D

ARTHUR, DIVERGE, DIVERGE!

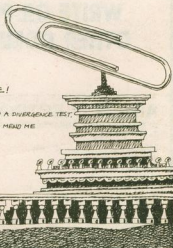
IT CAN CLIP A TO C

IT CAN UNCLIP A FROM B

IT CAN BE USED AS A QUESTION IN A DIVERGENCE TEST.

IT CAN CLIP CH CH CH CH CH

IT COULD BE USED TO MEND MEND MEND ME



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date

